

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Entomology and
Pathology

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Date: August 28, 1997

Subject: 1997 Aerial Detection Surveys

To: Forest Supervisor
Coconino National Forest
2323 E Greenlaw Ln.
Flagstaff, Az. 86004

The annual insect and disease aerial detection survey was conducted over the Coconino National Forest August 11-14, 1997 by Entomology and Pathology observers. Enclosed are maps depicting the forest pest conditions. Please forward one copy of the map and this letter to the appropriate ranger districts. Following is a summary of the results of this survey.

Approximately 12,030 acres of ponderosa pine mortality was detected this year. This represents a substantial increase from the totals mapped last year. Notable areas of mortality were detected east and north of Flagstaff, in the O'Neil Crater area, and around the Turkey Butte area. It is suspected many ponderosa pine were stressed last season by the drought, enabling ips beetles to successfully attack them.

True fir mortality has increased this year with notable pockets of mortality occurring on the west and north slopes of the San Francisco peaks. Some of this mortality is visible from the Snowbowl Ski Resort. Approximately 1,658 acres of mortality were detected.

Pinyon pine mortality on the Mormon Lake district south of Twin Arrows is very extensive and covers approximately 12,698 acres along the forest boundary there. It appears this infestation is continuing to spread. Monitoring plots have been established in this area by R3 Entomology and Pathology and data is being actively recorded.

Aspen defoliation, of low and moderate severity, was detected primarily on the San Francisco peaks. We suspect this is the continued result of a combination of black leaf spot, caused by Marssonina populi, as well as aspen tortrix. 290 acres of defoliation was mapped, a decrease from 1996.

59 acres of Douglas-fir mortality was detected with the majority of small 1-10 tree pockets occurring around the San Francisco peaks and northeast of Mormon Mountain. This represents a decrease from 1996.

Mortality from fire was evident around numerous small fires around the forest. Mortality around, and associated with the Horseshoe, Hochderffer and Pot fires was not extensive or beyond reasonable. These areas will be monitored closely in the 98 aerial surveys for the possibility of associated bark beetle outbreaks.

Electronic format copies of the map files and data will be forwarded to Pat Key for incorporation with GIS.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, or insects and disease in your area, contact us at (520) 556-2071 and 556-2072. Thank you.

Borys Tkacz
Zone Leader
Arizona Zone Entomology and Pathology